shadow regions beyond Orissa, Andhra Pradesh border to apprise fisherman of weather bulletins in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The coastal areas of the Orissa and Andhra Pradesh including Sompeta, Kakinada and Nellore fall within the coverage zone of the High Power Transmitters at Cuttack, Vijaywada and Vishakhapatnam and FM Transmitters at Puri and Berhampur in Orissa, which cater to the needs of the listeners, including fishermen, by broadcast of weather bulletins and warnings about cyclonic storm etc., round the clock.

Steps Taken for Birth Control

371. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present birth rate in our country, how many children are born every day;

(b) what steps are being taken to control the birth rate;

(c) which community is cooprating more to the birth control measures; and

(d) what is the amount spent for birth control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) According to the latest available Sample Registration Sytem estimates, the birth rate in the country is 28.3 (provisional) per thousand population for 1995. Based on this rate and the estimated midyear population of 1996, the number of children born per day works out to 72,300.

(b) Measures taken to control birth rate among others are:—

(i) A system of decentralised participatory planning from the Primary Health Centre Level with emphasis on improvement in the quality of services and client satisfaction.

(ii) Under the Community Award Scheme, a village in each district (with more than 500 population) will be given an Award of Rs. 2 lakh for lowering Birth Rate and Infant & Child Mortality Rates.

(iii) Pulse Polio and School health check up through massive social mobilisation, beside routine immunisation, to improve their survival and promote child health.

(c) The Family Wefare Programme is being promoted in voluntary basis with cafeteria approach where the client needs are met by providing quality of services.

(d) An allocation of Rs. 1550,00 Crores has been made for implementing the Family Welfare Programme during the year 1996-97.

Gold Smugglers using Liberalised Gold Import Scheme for Smuggling

372. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the liberalised gold import scheme introduced by Government in 1992 has helped the smugglers to bring gold using NRIs returning from gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the modus operandi of the gold smugglers taking advantage of the scheme;

(c) whether Government have made any in-depth review of the gold import scheme in the light of its actual working; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Recently, in some of the cases investigated by the customs authorities, it appeared that the returning Non Resident Indians have been used to carry gold for a consideration in terms of air-fare and/or cash compensation. The liberalised Gold Import Scheme introduced in 1992 was reviewed in 1994 so as to permit extension of the facility of gold import upto 15 days after the arrival of the passenger as also imports through MMTC and SBI for delivery of such gold in India to the returning NRIs.

The main objectives of the liberalised Gold Import Scheme, interalia, were to encourage the import of gold through licit channels against payment of customs duty in foreign exchange and to discourage smuggling of gold. It has been reported that the introduction of this Scheme has had a healthy impact on checking clandestine imports of gold. At present, there is no proposal before the Government to review this Scheme.

Setting up of T.V. Centres in North Eastern Region

373. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some T.V. Centres are being set up in North Eastern Region in general and Assam in particular;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) While 40 TV transmitters of varying power are presently under implementation in the North Eastern region, 19 more transmitter projects, including 3 HPTs, 3 LPTs and one Transposer in Assam, are envisaged to be set up in the region subject to availability of resources and infrastructural facilities.

Allocation for repair, maintenance and modernisation of airports

374. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made during the current financial year for repair, maintenance and modernisation of each airport;

(b) the allocation made for the same purposes during the last three years;

(c) whether funds have also been made available for some of the airports for upgradation;

(d) if so, the status of work relating to maintenance, repairing, construction, upgradation and modernisation; and

(e) airport-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

News Item under the Caption "India is not among top 20 Tourist attractions"

375. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appeared in the Times of India dated 9th October, 1996 under the caption "India is not among top 20 tourist attractions";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take/have taken any steps to attract more tourist by providing more facilities and relevant inforamtion regarding the position of law and order and such other information;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what other special steps Government propose to take to attract more tourists?